



NDSBA
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 7128
Bismarck ND 58507-7128
1-800-932-8791 • (701)255-4127
www.ndsba.org

HB 1348

Testimony of Lexie Bergstrom Senate Workforce | March 10, 2023

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Committee, my name is Lexie Bergstrom. I am the staff attorney at the North Dakota School Boards Association. NDSBA represents all 170 North Dakota public school districts, their boards, and several multi-district special education units.

The North Dakota School Boards Association stands in support of HB 1348. Under the current law, any participating school district with three hundred high school students must be allowed one school board member representative on the area career and technology center board. Therefore, any participating school district with 900 or more students must have three school board member representatives on the area career and technology center board. Effectively, if a school board has five members and three out of five members are also on the area career and technology centerboard, a quorum is created. Where there is a quorum of school board members, board meetings must be posted, and all open meetings laws must be followed. This has created issues with posting requirements for the large school districts with small school boards.

This bill would give participating school boards the option to have one member sit on the career and technology center board, while the school board appoints representative designees to the second and third board seats. This would allow large school districts with small school boards to avoid creating a quorum and, instead, designate those board seats to business managers, superintendents, principals, etc.

School boards throughout the North Dakota would appreciate the flexibility this bill would allow as these career and technology centers continue to evolve.

For these reasons, NDSBA supports HB 1348 and respectfully encourages this committee to give it a DO PASS recommendation. Thank you for your time, and I will stand for any questions.